

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. As a family physician who will be locating in the rural area of Chesterfield, SC to practice medicine, I believe that the combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me. I am very happy with the satellite TV service we currently have in Greenville, and the merger would allow the same benefits to be available in Chesterfield. This primarily involves broadband internet access, but there is an added benefit from local programming and new television technologies as well.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Atkinson, M.D.
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Simpsonville, SC 29681